Next Steps

Once you have an account, there are a few things that should be highlighted. Upon logging in you will have some new links at the top of each page: your user name, which links to your personal user page; "My Talk", which links to a page where you can receive messages and respond; "My Preferences", which let's you customise how you interface with Wikipedia through the browser; "My Watchlist", which you use to track changes to articles which you are interested in; "My Contributions", that shows all of your edits since you first started on Wikipedia; and "Log out" for when you wish to stop for a bit (highly recommended when working from public terminals).

Setting Your Preferences

Clicking on the "My Preferences" option mentioned above will bring you to a page where you can change how you view Wikipedia, and provide some additional functionality that can be useful. Your "user profile" will give some basic information about your account - how long you have been editing for, any special permissions you may have, your email account (only viewable by you, but if you set it, other people can send email to you, and you can send email to other people), the ability to change your password and an option to change your signature (used when leaving comments on discussion pages).

Two options may be particularly useful when starting out. The "Date and time" tab will allow you to set the timezone in which you reside, and this will automatically adjust some some information (such as the times that appear on your watchlist) to your local time. And the "Gadgets" tab provides extra features to make editing easier: in particular, "HotCat" is worth enabling, as it streamlines the all-important process of adding categories to pages.

My preferences
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

User profile | Appearance | Date and time | Editing | Recent changes | Watchlist | Search options | Misc | Pending changes | Gadgets

Below is a list of custom features you may enable for your account. These gadgets require JavaScript to be enabled in your browser. Please note that these tools are not part of the core MediaWiki software, and are generally developed and maintained by users on Wikipedia.

Be advised that **you take full responsibility for any action performed** using these features. For more information see our **policies and guidelines**.

Browsing gadgets

- GoogleTrans, opens a translation popup for the selected text or the word under the cursor when pushing the shift button
- ImageAnnotator, to view notes and comments that people have placed upon images shown on file description pages.
- Navigation popups, article previews and editing functions popup when hovering over links
- Navigation popups (experimental version). Minified and served through ResourceLoader. **Does not work with Firefox 4, Chrome, IE8, and possibly others.**

Editing gadgets

- Add a sidebar menu of user-defined regex tools, with a dynamic form for instant one-use regex (documentation).
- ☑ HotCat, easily add / remove / change a category on a page, with name suggestion [example]
- Citation expander: Automatically expand and format citations (uses "Citation bot").
- ProveIt, a powerful GUI tool for viewing, editing, adding, and inserting references (screenshot, working demo).
- Twinkle, a set of tools that automates common tasks such as reporting vandalism, warning vandals, requesting deletion, welcoming users, and tagging articles.
- wikEd, a full-featured integrated text editor for Firefox, Safari, and Google Chrome. Please read the help page for usage instructions.

Creating a User Page

One of the first things you may wish to do is create your own user page. You can add as much or as little information as you wish - generally it is recommended that you do not include personal information, but you might consider adding some general information about yourself. Keep in mind, though, that it is your choice as to how much (or how little) to add.

Just to get started, consider putting some information about the country you are editing from. If you click on your username at the top of the page, you should see a new page with the message "Wikipedia does not have a user page with this exact name". To make changes, first select "Start the User:...".
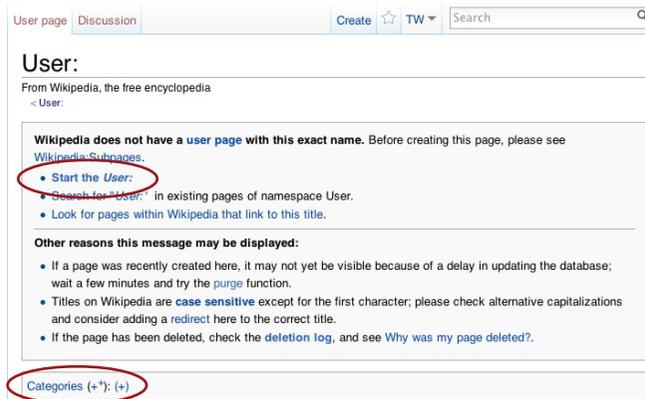
User page | Discussion   Create ☆ TW▼ | Search

User:
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
< User:

Wikipedia does not have a user page with this exact name. Before creating this page, please see Wikipedia:Subpages.
- **Start the User:**
- Search for "User:" in existing pages of namespace User.
- Look for pages within Wikipedia that link to this title.

Other reasons this message may be displayed:
- If a page was recently created here, it may not yet be visible because of a delay in updating the database; wait a few minutes and try the purge function.
- Titles on Wikipedia are **case sensitive** except for the first character; please check alternative capitalizations and consider adding a redirect here to the correct title.
- If the page has been deleted, check the deletion log, and see Why was my page deleted?.

Categories (+*): (+)

You should now be presented with a form where you can create your user page. Try add two lines:

    [[Portal:Australia]]
    {{user Australia}}

The first provides a link to a page that provides information of interest to Australian contributors, while the second adds a small box stating that you are editing from Australia. You can check your changes at any time by selecting "Show Preview", and select "Save Page" when ready.

Now that you have a page, you can try adding a category using HotCat. If HotCat has been enabled, at the bottom of your user page should be a small blue link saying "Categories". To the right of the link should be a "+" sign - clicking on that will open a text box in which you can add your chosen category. To start with, add "Wikipedians in Queensland" to the box, and click save. Once it is there you can select the category and have a look around at some of your fellow Queensland contributors - luck holding, you'll find some interesting people and gain some good ideas as to how to further develop your user page.

Creating an Account on Wikipedia
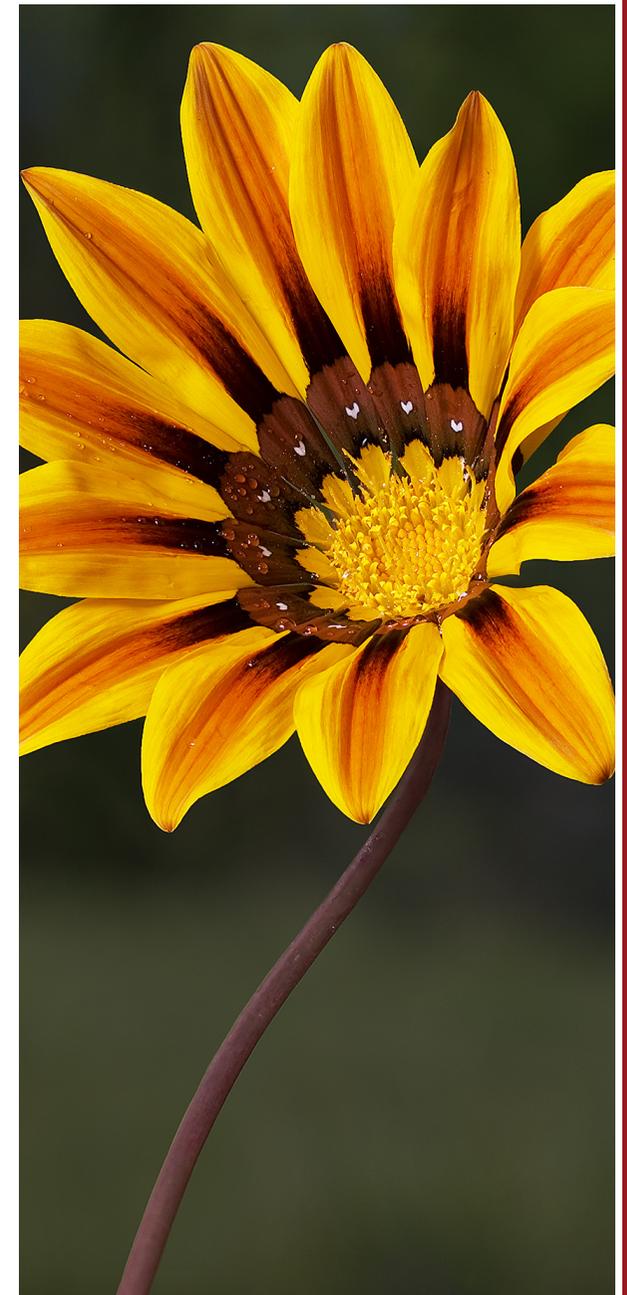
Introduction

Wikipedia has been described as the "encyclopaedia that anyone can edit", and doing so generally requires nothing more than visiting the site, selecting "edit", and making your changes. There is no need to register, - you can edit straight away, without an account, and your changes will be shared with all.

That said, there are good reasons why one should consider creating a formal account, and this pamphlet is intended to be a quick guide to the process.

Why Create an Account?

There is no need to create an account to edit most of the pages on Wikipedia - the vast majority are open to anyone. Editing without an account, though, does tend to limit what you can do. In particular, you will be unable to create new articles or upload files: there may be times when you will be prevented from editing the project (generally the result of trouble by someone who previously used the same IP address as you are now using): and each of your edits will not necessarily be associated with your contributions, preventing you from building a reputation as a valued contributor.

On the other hand, if you do have an account, you will have some distinct advantages. You can upload files and create new articles: edit articles that have been semi-protected (generally used to prevent vandalism): customise how you view Wikipedia through your browser; gain access to specialised editing tools: track changes to articles you are interested in through your watchlist: and build a reputation as a valued contributor. In addition, through the use of the unified login, the account you create on one of the Wikimedia Foundation's projects can be extended to them all - including Wikimedia Commons, WikiNews, WikiSource and Wikiversity, along with the various language-specific versions of Wikpedia.

Choosing a Name

Before you start, though, you are going to need to choose a username. The first decision you need to make is whether it is better to edit under either your real name (or a variation thereof), or to use a pseudonym to provide a degree of anonymity. Generally, most users choose a pseudonym - it helps provide some security from harassment. (At times, editors may choose to involve themselves in controversial subjects, or they may find that they have stumbled across one accidentally. Thus the extra

security can be welcome).

If you are going with a pseudonym, there are a few additional rules to keep in mind:

- The use of names based on a company, product or organisation is generally prohibited.

- Usernames cannot be contain an email address or web address (such as example.com).

- You cannot choose a misleading username, such as the real name of another individual, or a name that claims a relationship or responsibility that you don't possess.

- Names cannot be offensive, or chosen in order to be disruptive.

Other than these rules, there's quite a bit of flexibility, as even a quick examination of the usernames employed by other contributors will attest.

Creating an Account

When you access Wikipedia, at http://en.wikipedia.org/, in the top-right corner should be a small link saying "Log In/Create Account".

Clicking on that link will bring you to the "log in" page, where you will be given an option to create an account.

Following the "Create one" option will take you to a page where you can create a new account. You will need to enter your new username, your password, an (optional) email address, and the random letters (the captcha) displayed on the page. In choosing your password, it is best to select one that you have not used before. Generally speaking, passwords should be at least five characters in length, combining both letters and numbers.

That should be it. From here you should be able to log in and start using your new account.

Requesting an Account

In some cases, such as where you are unable to enter the letters that you are asked to type in, it may not be possible to create a new account yourself. In those situations you can ask for a new account to be created for you at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Request_an_account

Sockpuppets and Role Accounts

As each contributor to Wikipedia is recognised by their username, there are two rules which are worth taking into consideration. The first is that an account should only ever be used by a single person - role accounts, where the one username is shared by two or more people, are prohibited. The second is that, as a general rule, you can only have a single account. There are a few exceptions to this, but the rule is designed to avoid situations where people use multiple usernames in a debate in order to lend more weight to their side of the argument, or where an alternative account is used to disguise actions that would be prevented if they were using their original one. Such accounts are referred to as "sockpuppets", and investigations can lead to sanctions.

WIKIMEDIA AUSTRALIA